Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph **[0015]** on page 5 of the specification with the following new paragraph:

[0015] The invention will be elucidated below with reference to the examples depicted schematically in the Figures, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a carrier plate that carries a plurality of metal grids;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a slide having depressions that can be filled with at least one treatment liquid;

FIG. 3 is a schematic sectional view that illustrates the spatial correlation of the carrier plate with the slide;

FIG. 4a is a plan view of an embodiment of a slide;

FIG. 4b is a plan view of a further embodiment of a slide, a pipette for the application of liquid droplets likewise being depicted;

FIG. 5 is a perspective detail view of the coaction of the transport holder with the stack of transport containers in the first or second station;

FIG. 6 is a perspective detail view of the coaction of the transport holder with a carrier plate located in the treatment section;

FIG. 7a is a perspective top view of an embodiment of the transport container;

FIG. 7b is a perspective bottom view of an embodiment of the transport container;

FIG. 8 is a sectioned view of the transport container taken along ~~the~~ dashed line ~~A-A~~ 8-8 ~~depicted~~ in FIG. 7a; and

FIG. 9 is a sectioned view of the transport container taken along ~~the~~ dashed line ~~B-B depicted~~ 9-9 in FIG. 7b.

Please replace paragraph **[0023]** on page 9 of the specification with the following newly amended paragraph:

[0023] A perspective top view of an embodiment of transport container 40 is depicted in FIG. 7a. Transport container 40 is embodied in the form of a trough that comprises a peripheral delimiting wall 49 which is closed off by a base 50. Transport container 40 is produced from a dimensionally stable material such as, for example, aluminum, composite material, filled polymer material, or unfilled polymer material. As a rule, transport container 40 is produced using an injection-molding method. Other production methods, for example milling, are also conceivable, injection molding being the most cost-effective. The material of which transport container 40 is manufactured is a suitable polymer material (e.g. RYTON BR 111 BL of the Chevron Phillips Chemical Company). Delimiting wall 49 possesses a front wall 51 and a back wall 52, both joined to one another via a left and a right sidewall 53 and 54. Front wall 51 and back wall 52 each form a right angle with left and with right sidewall 53 and 54. Delimiting wall 49 has toward the inside a peripheral first step 55, a peripheral second step 56, and a peripheral third step 57. The next transport container 40 (see FIG. 5) rests with its base 50 on first step 55. Base 50 of the one transport container 40 thus simultaneously constitutes a cover for the next transport container 40 located below it. Slide [[6]] 4 rests on third step 57 and is simultaneously fixed in position by the edge of second step 56. Base 50 of transport container 40 has a first and a second elevation 58 and 59, each of which possesses a planar flattened area 60. Flattened area 60 is located at the height of third step 57, so that the elevations serve as supports for slide 4. First elevation 58 is round. Second elevation 59 is oval in shape. In addition, a moisture-emitting medium (not depicted in FIG. 7a) can be placed onto base 50 of transport container 40. Left and right sidewalls 53 and 54 each have a protrusion 61. In the region of protrusion 61, slide 4 is not completely in contact against left and right sidewalls 53 and 54 so that, for example, moisture from the moisture-emitting medium on base 50 of transport container 40 can reach the surface of slide 4 that carries liquid droplets 6. Protrusions 61 likewise facilitate the removal of slide 4 from transport containers 40. Left and right sidewalls 53 and 54 of transport container 40 possess, in the region of its front wall 51, two grip recesses 62 that ensure reliable handling of transport container 40 for the user. Back wall 52 of transport

container 40 has two parallel lugs 63 shaped onto it. Lugs 63 serve as a guide in an apparatus that can automatically process the transport containers.

Please replace paragraph **[0025]** and **[0026]** on page 10 of the specification with the following newly amended paragraphs:

[0025]FIG. 8 is a ~~sectioned~~ sectional view of transport container 40 taken along ~~dashed~~ line ~~A-A~~ 8-8 of ~~depicted in~~ FIG. 7a. It is clearly evident that third step 57 lies at the same level as flattened area 60 of first and second elevations 58 and 59. As already mentioned in the description of FIG. 7a, a moisture-emitting medium 64 is provided on base 50 of transport container 40 so that the moisture prevents liquid droplets (see FIG. 5) from drying out.

[0026] FIG. 9 is a further ~~sectioned depiction~~ sectional view of transport container 40 taken along ~~dashed~~ line 9-9 of ~~B-B depicted in~~ FIG. 7b. Transport container 40 possesses a substantially U-shaped profile along section line 9-9 ~~B-B~~, left sidewall 53 and right sidewall 54 constituting the limbs of the U-shaped profile. Stops 70 are spaced away from base 50 of the transport container. Delimiting wall 49 of left and of right sidewall 53 and 54 has, toward the inside, a peripheral first step 55, a peripheral second step 56, and a peripheral third step 57. The next transport container 40 (see FIG. 5) rests with its base 50 on first step 55. Base 50 of the one transport container 40 thus simultaneously constitutes a cover for the next transport container 40 located below it. Slide 4 rests on third step 57 and is simultaneously fixed in position by the edge of second step 56.